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ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

Board of Education,

—AND—

Superintending School Committee,

—OF THE TOWN OF—

NORTHFIELD,

—FOR THE—

Year Ending March 1, 1878.

GEO. W. BAKER, POWER JOB PRINTER, TILTON, N. H.

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REPORT.

Account of money furnished F. J. Eastman, Town Treasurer.

The following sums have been received and paid into the treasury, besides the balance in his hands March 1, 1877.

Reported March 1, 1877,	$1,670 39
Received from Sarah O. Brown, on town note,	1,100 00
State Treasurer, Savings Bank Tax,	882 79
State Treasurer, Railroad Tax,	313 58
State Treasurer, Literary Fund,	61 92
County of Merrimack,	275 41
Town of Canterbury, aid to Mrs. Grover,	21 90
Granite Mill Highway Tax,	32 40
Gardner S. Abbott, taxes 1876,	178 00
" " " 1877,	7,135 51
	$11,672 48

Orders have been given on the Treasurer as follows:

Outstanding Bills Paid.

Charles R. Gould, Auditor 1876,	$ 2 00
J. F. Taylor, parsonage interest,	5 50
John A. Kimball, for Isaac Kimball,	1 00
Albert A. Gorrel, breaking roads,	5 00
Robert Martin, constable and police services, 1876,	12 00
G. W. Fellows, breaking roads,	10 00
John S. Winslow, for Mrs. O. Grover,	2 10
Jeremiah Dow, for board of Nudd girl,	4 00
Hazen Abbott, two chairs for town house,	65
Lewis D. Haines, breaking mail route,	4 60
D. N. Kemp, spikes, etc.,	2 91
C. H. Robertson, for Mrs. Grover,	3 00
J. B. Yeaton, " "	3 75
Moses Batchelder, " "	2 25
George E. Davis, breaking roads,	3 00
Condon & Lang, shoes for pauper,	1 25
	$63 01

Notes and Interest.

Martha J. Dearborn's note,	$366 14
W. Smith Hill's note,	603 42
Lydia Brown's note,	314 08
R. S. Whicher, endorsement,	33 00
Obadiah Glines's note,	95 35
John E. Forrest's note,	290 55
Mary C. Been, endorsement,	10 00

Sophia Whicher's note,	103 25
R. S. Whicher, endorsement,	37 00
" " "	39 00
" " "	38 00
Hannah S. French, endorsement,	25 00
Caroline Blake's note,	207 81
Harriet Brown's note,	85 77
Fannie Smith's note,	287 86
Mary J. Plummer, endorsement,	25 00
Cynthia A. Hill's note,	207 62
Mary C. Bean's note,	115 26
	$2,884 56

School Money Paid Prudential Committees.

District No. 1, Francis Stevens,	$114 57
" " 2, Charles G. Smith,	165 50
" " 3, Joseph A. Cofran,	70 00
" " 4, Aram M. Riley,	112 24
" " 5, William G. Hannaford,	110 35
" " 6, George F. Weeks,	87 96
" " 7, Arthur L. Hannaford,	81 07
" " 8, Charles R. Gould,	257 86
Marden settlement, John Ham,	3 45
	$1,003 00

State and County Taxes.

State,	$976 00
County,	926 71
	$1,902 71

Coupons paid by treasurer,	$1,287 00

Pauper Bills.

Paid Daniel Dearborn, house rent for Isaac Kimball,	$13 00
Isaac G. Mooney, for burial of Collins boy,	3 25
J. Boucher, for Mrs. Bishop,	18 57
Sarah Y. Payson, for transient family,	2 75
Charles Keniston, for Charles Keniston,	18 00
John S. Winslow, for Charles Keniston,	24 14
J. F. Taylor, for Collins family,	6 00
Philbrick & Hill, for E. J. Dearborn,	14 00
Smith W. Glines, for David Morrill,	1 50
Philbrick & Hill, for Mrs. Grover,	5 00
" " for County paupers,	63 00
W. H. Clough, for David Morrill,	3 75
D. N. Kemp, for County paupers,	66 70
" " for Mrs. Grover,	5 00
Mrs. Jonathan Keniston, for H. Heath,	20 00
Byron Shaw, board and clothing for Nudd girl,	7 00
C. P. Herrick & Co., for H. Heath,	50
C. R. Gould, medical attandance, (county paupers),	55 00
Stationary tramp,	5 00
	$332 16

Highways.

Paid Moses Batchelder, breaking roads,	$ 4 67
B. F. Kimball, " "	6 80
W. H. Clough, surveyor, breaking roads,	12 80

Paid Clough Gorrell,	breaking roads,	2 50
D. M. Huse, surveyor,	" "	11 77
James N. Forrest, surveyor,	" "	7 75
Wesley Knowles,	"	6 00
James Lyford,		8 25
Charles H. Robertson, labor,		3 00
Charles D. Bryant, breaking roads,		9 00
H. P. Sewell,	" "	5 50
A. L. Weymouth,		1 00
E. B. Calef, damage to plow,		3 00
Wallace Glines, labor,		1 25
B. T. Brown, bridge plank,		16 50
Francisco Benitez, labor,		2 25
William Davis, labor on bridge,		5 00
B. P. Simonds, bridge plank,		69 28
Albert J. Cate, labor,		3 00
E. B. Calef,	"	3 00
G. W. Corliss,	"	1 50
T. R. Payson, breaking roads and labor,		10 00
J. N. Forrest, labor,		15 00
David Brown, non-resident tax worked out,		3 78
Stephen Staples, labor,		75
Erastus Nudd,	"	1 70
Jeremiah Dow,	"	2 25
Frank Dow,	"	1 50
Herbert Dow,	"	75
Lewis D. Haines,	"	9 00
John S. Winslow, labor and surveying stone,		2 00
Otis C. Wyatt, damage to plow,		2 00
William C. French, labor,		1 50
G. E. Gorrell,	"	2 50
Gilman Bennett, building water-course,		3 00
Arthur L. Hannaford, breaking roads,		2 94
" "	labor,	7 00
Charles H. Ayers, non-resident tax worked out,		3 24
Charles D. Bryant, labor,		16 50
John H. Dinsmore, for covering stone,		15 70

Alvah Hannaford, damage to plow,	5 00
Smith W. Glines, labor,	10 50
David Davis, labor and breaking roads,	7 87
Asa K. Osgood, for use of plow,	3 00
	$319 75

Bounties Paid.

H. H. Cross, hawks killed,	$ 1 00
Frank W. Rand, "	60
	$1 60

Current Expenses.

Paid C. R. Gould, auditor, 1877,	$ 2 00
Oscar P. Sanborn, auditor, 1877,	2 00
George W. Baker, printing reports,	28 00
Charles H. Robertson, books for poor children,	6 62
Edson C. Eastman, blanks and stationery,	7 55
William Cogswell, damage to carriage spring,	1 50
George W. Baker, printing,	5 50
Thomas W. Long, parsonage interest, 1877,	5 50
Alvah Hannaford, labor and material for building railing,	13 43
Daniel S. Clay, parsonage interest, 1877,	5 50
J. F. Taylor, " " "	5 50
W. C. French, for watering-trough,	3 00
Thomas W. Long, for guide-board,	2 24
Philbrick & Hill, for spikes,	32
Daniel Barnard, for advice,	5 00
H. I. Glines, for watering-trough,	3 00
Edward Osgood, surveying town line and set-	

ting monuments on same,	3 75
Robert Martin, services as constable,	8 00
Jewett E. Maxfield, for monuments and bill of surveying town line,	4 00
G. W. Nesmith, for advice,	2 00
A. H. Brown, damage to carriage,	2 45
Town of Tilton, for housing tramp over night,	50
J. E. Dennis, services as constable and police,	12 00
Moses F. Winslow, for wood,	3 00
Robert Smith, parsonage interest, 1877,	5 50
C. Boynton, for grade,	5 00
Mrs. H. Cilley, bill of H. Cilley, care of town house,	3 50
Oliver L. Cross, services superintending school committee,	35 00
Franklin J. Eastman, services as treasurer,	30 00
Thomas W. Long, services as town clerk,	35 00
Smith W. Glines, services as selectman,	45 00
Benj. F. Cofran, services and expenses as selectman,	78 72
James N. Forrest, services and expenses as selectman,	101 67
Benj. F. Cofran, board of selectmen,	7 75
	$479 5

Notes Due from the Town.

Sarah O. Brown, 5 per cent.,	$1,149 50
Mary S. Plummer, 5 per cent.,	282 50
Hannah S. French, " "	138 67
Rhoda Clark, " "	105 43
John S. Winslow, executor, 5 per cent.,	521 31
R. S. Whicher, guardian,	190 58
	$2,396.99

Reported March 1, 1877, as uncollected on Gardner S. Abbott's list for 1876,	$327 00	
Paid treasurer, 1877,		$178 58
Uncollected,		148 42
		$327 00

Statement of Gardner S. Abbott's Collection for 1877-78.

Whole amount committed,	$7,748 29	
Abatements and errors,		$ 92 82
Highway receipts,		24 73
Collector's fees,		98 75
Paid treasurer,		7,135 51
Uncollected,		396 48
		$7,748 29

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES N. FORREST,
SMITH W. GLINES,
BENJ. F. COFRAN,
Selectmen of Northfield.

Northfield, March 1, 1878.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We, the subscribers, having examined the foregoing accounts of the selectmen and of the treasurer for the year 1877 and 1878, respectfully submit that we find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

The following is a statement of the financial condition of the town. The selectmen charge the treasurer with having received $11,672.48, including amount in the treasury March 1, 1877. Of this amount the treasurer discharges himself as follows:

Paid outstanding bills,	$ 63 01
Current expenses,	479 50
Highways,	319 75
Pauper bills,	332 16
School money,	1,003 00
Notes and interest,	2,884 56
State and county taxes,	1,902 71
Coupons for 1877,	1,194 00
" " 1876,	93 00
Bounties on hawks,	1 60
	$8,273 29

Indebtedness of the Town.

Bonds,	$20,000 00

Accrued interest,	400 00
Due on outstanding coupons,	6 00
" on notes,	2,396 99
" School District No. 3,	146 84
" " " 4,	23 79
" for domestic animals killed by dogs,	80 00
Estimated on outstanding bills,	50 00
	$23,103 62

Available Means.

Cash in hands of treasurer,		$3,399 19
Taxes uncollected considered good,		257 17
		$3,656 36
Present indebtedness of town,	$19,447 26	
Amount of indebtedness March 1, 1877,		$22,947 26
		19,447 26
Reduction of debt during the year,		$3,500 00

ADAM S. BALLANTYNE,
FRANCIS STEVENS,
JASON FOSS,
Board of Auditors.

March 1, 1878.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The growing interest manifested by the tax-payers of Northfield in the financial affairs of the town is a cause of congratulation.

Taking it for granted that everything is right in the management of town business favors laxity and carelessness, while watching and investigation tend to saving and economy.

Indifference, if it does not encourage extravagance, fails to prevent it.

The thorough and intelligent examination of the town books by the committee in 1874, and the discoveries then made, have produced, among other valuable results, a disposition on the part of many citizens to see for themselves where the money goes.

Vigilance here is truly the price of economy, and animated by this spirit we doubt if any claim of questionable character is ever passed unchallenged by those who have the burdens.

The gradual wearing away of our town debt from $37,000 in 1865 to less than $20,000 in 1878, with an amount of interest in addition equal to our total liabilities at the present date, the purchase and payment of an excellent town house, speak well for the pluck and integrity of our citizens and give undoubted assurance that the balance will be met at maturity.

Our interest account in 1865 amounted to $2,200; in 1878, about $1,200.

This formidable item being so materially reduced, our debt nearly all funded, pauper settlements being adjusted with much less expense, all tend to reduce the official expenses of the town and suggest the propriety of reduction in taxation.

The next best thing to a town out of debt is when the obligations to pay are being diminished, while a lower rate of taxation can at the same time be prudently imposed.

There can be no reasonable doubt but what we have reached the turning point, and that henceforth, if we are true to ourselves, our taxes can be lightened.

If there are no extraordinary calls on the treasury, it is the opinion of the treasurer, and concurred in by the board of selectmen, that we can reduce the sum raised from last year one thousand five hundred dollars annually, and at the same time create a sinking fund that in five years will protect our bonds that mature in 1883, viz., $6,100.

The five-year series of bonds that fall due in May 1878, and the accrued interest on all, amounting to the total of $2,300, are provided for by present taxation viz. : $1,700 in bonds and $600 interest.

It has been suggested that a large reduction might be now proposed.

The material addition to our proportion of the county tax (almost $300) would seem to preclude the idea of any such attempt at the present time.

Unloading $1,500 of taxes yearly will be hailed with satisfaction, especially when we take into consideration the growing stringency of the money market, the low prices of agricultural products, the small demand for labor and its reduced value.

It seems not only proper but just to say a word in commendation of our collector, Dea. Abbott, who has most faithfully performed his duty, and has succeeded in realizing the face of his tax bill into a few hundred dollars, one of the largest in amount ever issued by the town.

One year's experience will test the propriety of reducing still further the rates of taxation.

The town debt, after deducting available means was, in			
	1873,	$27,596 39	Reduced.
	1874,	27,278 92	$308 47
	1875,	26,772 20	515 72

1876,	25,859 46	912 74
1877,	22,947 26	2,912 20
1878 is	19,447 26	3,500 00
		$8,149 13

Showing the gratifying decrease of $8,149.13 in five years.

The table here appended shows the receipts of cash from various sources, and the disposition of the same.

Cash received of Granite Mills, highway tax,	$ 32 40
Sarah O. Brown, note,	1,100 00
Town aid refunded,	21 90
Literary fund,	61 92
Savings bank tax,	882 79
Railroad tax,	313 58
Merrimack County tax, pauper refunded,	275 41
G. S. Abbott, collector, on tax of 1877,	7,135 51
G. S. Abbott, collector, on tax of 1876,	178 58
Cash on hand March 1, 1877,	1,670 39
	$11,672 48

The above amount is accounted for as below:

Paid on orders of selectmen,	$5,083 58
State tax,	976 00
County tax,	926 71
Coupons outstanding from last report,	93 00
Coupons, May, 1877,	600 00
" Nov., 1871,	594 00
Cash on hand,	3,399 19
	$11,672 48

Summary.

Outstanding bills, (estimated),		50 00
Due school districts,		170,63
Due for domestic animals killed by dogs,		80 00
Notes and interest,		2,396 99
Bonds and interest, and outstanding coupons,		20,406 00
		$23,103 62
Cash,	$3,399 19	
Taxes unpaid and good,	257 17	
		$3,656 36
Town owes, March 1, 1878,		$19,447 26
Due, March 1, 1877,		22,947 26
" " 1878,		19,447 26
Reduced,		$3,500 00

Expenses of Officers of the Town.

James N. Forrest, 1st selectman, and expenses,	101 67
Smith W. Glines, 2d selectman,	45 00
B. F. Cofran and expenses,	78 72
Thomas W. Long, town clerk,	35 00
F. J. Eastman, treasurer,	30 00
Board of selectmen,	7 75
	$298 14

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. J. EASTMAN, *Treasurer.*

REPORT

of the

Superintending School Committee.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF NORTHFIELD :—

In compliance with the law I submit the following report of our common schools for the year last past.

Most of the suggestions I have to submit are directly made or plainly implied in remarks upon the different schools.

While I cannot speak so highly as I would wish of our schools in general, I am happy to report no absolute failures. With two exceptions our schools are small, but this renders the selection of teachers none the less difficult.

Prudential Committees would do well to consider that the moment they are qualified they are *public officers*. The money of the district is *not* placed in their hands for the furtherance of any *private* ends or aims, whether they be *sectarian*, *social* or *political*.

Our teachers should be better qualified than a majority of those employed the last year.

It is not sufficient that one can pass a FORMAL examination of your committee. It is not sufficient that a *public instructor* can *work out* (as it is vulgarly called) all the problems of our arithmetics, and after a long trance of stupidity tell where they live upon the face of the earth, *waddle* through some simple grammatical sentence and completely *flounder* in reading some newspaper paragraph.

No teacher should have the presumption to apply for a school until he has a thorough knowledge of *all* the branches required by law to be taught, and a *prompt* and *ready* method of explanation.

No teacher has a *right* to sit back in her LAZY dignity over a dozen scholars and solace herself with the *trivial* expression that "She is not *hired* to furnish *brains* for her pupils." God forbid such a one ever becoming a mother.

No! The teacher is placed in the school-room *to work*, *not* to *sleep*. The fewer the scholars and the less general interest in the district, the *harder* she must work, and if she is fit for a teacher at all, the harder she will work.

Many of our teachers *fail*, simply because they have no conception of their duties and powers, and try to manage a school according to the capricious fancy of *every* parent. They have no definite ideas of their own, and are consequently driven about by every idle breeze of criticism.

High *moral principles*, *thorough scholarship*, *physical ability*, and a true love of the profession, are some of the qualifications we should like to see in our future teachers.

Our school-rooms are destitute of maps, globes, charts, books of reference and appliances of any kind, save a few *greasy black-boards*. A little of the money heretofore illegally expended to influence our annual elections would make our school-rooms models of the civilization of our age.

I would suggest the raising of a small sum by the town to supply these deficiencies. Perhaps some true friend might do well to embalm his memory in the hearts of the future generations of our town by a donation for this purpose.

DISTRICT No. 1 (*Centre*).

Summer term of 6 weeks, taught by Miss Belle W. Gile. We hope Miss G. did not rely upon her former reports, in-

stead of the sleepless energy necessary to make this school a success.

Miss Clara R. Thorp commenced the Fall term of 11 weeks with very manifest determination to succeed, and we have no doubt that so far as her *physical* ability would permit she carried out her intentions. The school appeared well.

Whole number, 16. Reading and spelling, 16; penmanship, 13; arithmetic, 13; geography, 5; grammar, 1; composition, 3.

District No. 2 (*Bay Hill*).

Summer term of 11 and Fall term of 13 weeks, taught by Miss Ora A. Adams. She is an *indefatigable* worker in the school-room. Rather too senstive, but energetic and hopeful. It was really a relief to go from the *dull*, *sleepy*, *lazy* atmosphere of some of our school-rooms into this one,—so full of life, activity and earnestness. Teacher always upon the *alert*, scholars *confident*, *prompt*, *accurate*.

Whole number, 13. Reading and spelling, 13; penmanship, 10; arithmetic, 10; geography, 8; grammar, 4; composition, 6; history, 8; not attending, 1.

District No. 3 (*Hodgdon*).

One term—Summer and Fall—14 weeks, Miss H. Josie Lang, teacher. Pleasant and tidy school-room (*the best in town*), orderly scholars, a *good teacher*, a *good school*. This was Miss Lang's first school. She has been faithful over a few, and we have no doubt she may become a successful ruler of many.

Whole number, 6. Reading and spelling, 6; penmanship, 5; arithmetic, 6; geography, 5; grammar, 1.

District No. 4 (*Rand*).

Summer term of 10 weeks, taught by Miss Mary J. Dalton. She is a young lady of excellent mind and heart, courteous, sympathetic and kind, but *too* deficient in energy for the well training of such a school.

Fall term of 11 weeks, taught by Miss Sarah E. Maxfield. *Diffidence* and *bashfulness* are not common characteristics of a country teacher, but in justice to her we must say we found both excessive in this teacher. Nevertheless, she is active and untiring in her efforts, and in a different school might have proved efficient. This school needs for a teacher a *ripe scholar;* one of ability and experience, of force and tact, both to *govern* and *instruct*.

District No. 5 (*Oak Hill*).

Summer term of 8 weeks, taught by Mr. John Pickard. Mr. P. entered upon his first school with a high appreciation of the importance of his chosen profession, and a laudable ambition to excel. He was energetic and untiring in his efforts. While his vanity needs no encouragement, it is but just to congratulate him and the district upon his well-earned success. We wish there were more young men and women so suitably preparing themselves for this high calling.

Fall term taught by Miss Mary J. Hannaford with good success, *especially* among the smaller scholars.

Whole number, 33. Reading and spelling, 33; penmanship, 13; arithmetic, 20; geography, 14; grammar, 9; composition, 7.

Miss H. has commenced a third term, which is now in session. It appeared orderly and well started.

I find not a *third* of the scholars of this district present, or enrolled upon the teacher's register as attending. This fact alone would seem to question the propriety of continuing a school in *winter* and *early spring*, when not a THIRD of the scholars *cannot* or *do not* receive the benefit of the public money.

I may as well remark here that a school district, being a public corporation for certain *express* and *implied* purposes, has *plenary* powers, and its agents *must* obey its behests when legally expressed.

No *prudential committee* is *obliged* to *expend the last* cent of *the district's money when it cannot be properly applied.*

It is to be hoped that *when* the enlightenment of the rising generation (the *morals* and *decency*, the *health* and lives of *our little ones*) becomes as dear to some of the voters of this district as *their hoarded dollars*, they will be ready to *repair* or *replace* the *thing* that now stands in their midst, and disgraces the name of *school-house*.

District No. 6 (*Bean Hill*).

Summer and Fall terms taught by Miss Belle Gile. This school appeared well at its opening. I did not receive notice in due time to examine it at its close. Miss Gile shows ability when she chooses to exercise it.

Whole number, 13. Reading and spelling, 13; penmanship, 9; arithmetic, 9; geography, 7; grammar, 2; composition, 2.

District No. 7 (*Pond*).

Summer term of 7 weeks, taught by Mrs. Myra F. Lane. As your committee does not think it advisable to re-open the discussion of the merits or demerits of this teacher at this time, I shall make no comments.

Fall term of 7 weeks, taught by Miss Sarah M. Colby. Under this scholarly instructor the school *reassumed* its accustomed place in the highest rank of our schools. Miss Colby needs no encomium from this or any other committee.

Whole number, 12. Reading and spelling, 12; penmanship, 7; grammar, 3; composition, 4; arithmetic, 10; geography, 7.

Respectfully submitted to the town of Northfield, this March 12th, 1878.

OLIVER L. CROSS,
Superintending School Committee.

REPORT

of the

BOARD OF EDUCATION

For Union District.

The schools in this district have been under the same instructors the past year that they were at the time of our last report:

ELLEN F. GOODWIN, Grammar School,
LIZZIE A. CHASE, Primary School.

It is needless to make comments upon the character of the teachers or the quality and rank of the schools, further than to simply refer to former reports.

They have been, on the whole, quite as satisfactory to the Board this year as heretofore.

For two reasons: first, lack of funds, second, alarm on the part of parents on account of the prevalence of diptheria, the schools were closed suddenly, without any final examination, and shortened three weeks as compared with previous years.

We have on hand a supply of coal sufficient for another winter.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

	1st Term.	*2d Term.*	*3d Term.*
Length of School in Weeks,	10	12	5
Whole Number of Scholars,	22	20	25
Average Attendance,	19.6	16.9	23.2
Number in Reading,	16	14	15
" Spelling,	22	20	25
" Writing,	22	20	25
" Arithmetic,	22	20	25
" Geography,	15	13	16
" Grammar,	22	20	25
" Composition,	22	20	25
" U. S. History,	8	6	4
" instances Tardiness,	38	49	47
" Dismissals not reported.			

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

	1st Term.	*2d Term.*	*3d Term.*
Length of School in Weeks,	10	12	5
Whole Number of Scholars,	53	58	50
Average Attendance,	42	48	45
Number in Reading,	53	58	50
" Spelling,	50	55	45
" Penmanship,	40	45	40
" Arithmetic,	40	49	40
" Geography,	15	15	20
" instances Tardiness,	21	38	15
" of Dismissals,	6	24	5

A. S. BALLANTYNE,
C. C. ROGERS,
C. R. GOULD,
} *Board of Education.*